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Quarterly Report
First Quarter 2003

Dr. Eber Receives Director's Award

Dr. Jerry Eber, director of Missouri's Animal Care Program, received the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) Director's Achievement Award. The award recognizes the extraordinary efforts and achievements of MDA employees who have gone above and beyond their normal assigned responsibilities and/or have earned recognition and other special achievements in their field.

Eligibility for selection is based on criteria such as improving the quality of programs or services; improving work processes, procedures, or policies resulting in better service or reduced costs; extraordinary customer service that benefits internal and external constituents; improved work environments or other innovations to improve the workplace; and accomplishment of extraordinary achievements related to job function.

MDA's director, Lowell Mohler, presented Dr. Eber with the award on April 18th. The ACFA staff congratulates Dr. Eber on winning this award.

ACFA Officers Assist USDA Exotic Newcastle Disease Task Force

Three ACFA field staff members went to work for the United States Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Services during the past quarter. They were part of an Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) Task Force in southern California. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service funded their stay. Tom Jacques, Ron Praiswater, and Matt Rold participated in the effort to eradicate END from southern California. The disease has also been detected in Arizona, Nevada, Texas, and possibly New Mexico.

Exotic Newcastle Disease is a devastating disease that affects birds of all types, including pet birds, with reported mortality rates of 75 to 100 percent in infected flocks. The disease can be spread through direct contact, body secretions, as an aerosol over short distances, and through mechanical vectors such as contaminated cages or clothing. Symptoms of the disease are similar to other avian diseases and can include death loss, green watery diarrhea, depression, paralysis, nasal discharge, and swelling around the eyes. Isolating the virus is the only way to confirm its presence. Bird owners should remain vigilant and follow sound biosecurity practices to detect and prevent the spread of the disease.

The Missouri Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health has implemented a surveillance program to detect any introduction of Exotic Newcastle Disease. If you feel your birds may be affected, please contact your veterinarian, University Extension Livestock Specialist, or the state veterinarian's office. See the END news release on our web site, www.mda.state.mo.us, for further details.

ACFA Advisory Board Meeting

Approximately 25 people attended the ACFA advisory board meeting in March at the Columbia Ramada Inn.

Items on the agenda included the financial report, staff assignments, and current program activity. Dr. Eber reported that Canine Care workshops would be held during the next quarter in Kansas City, Joplin, and Cape Girardeau. He also reported that ACFA inspectors are increasingly present at dog auctions. He stated that problems at the auctions are being worked out as they are encountered. The American Kennel Club and USDA often have representatives at these auctions as well. Changes in ACFA regulations were also discussed. Ron Praiswater gave a slide presentation entitled, "Going Above the Defined Standards."

The next meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. on June 18, 2003, at the Missouri Department of Agriculture's office in Jefferson City. All meetings are open to the public. This information will also be posted on the department's web site, www.mda.state.mo.us, prior to the next meeting.

Members of the ACFA Advisory Board

(terms expiring 12/31/2003)

Lynne Walters (Commercial Breeders)
Kay Kester-Oliver (Boarding Kennels)
Karen Strange (Hobby/Show Breeders)
Curt Ransom (Humane Organizations)
Lane Craig (Pet Shops)
Dr. Howard Pue (Department of Health)

(terms expiring 12/31/2004)

Ann Edwards (Professional Cat Breeders)
Bonnie Schindler (Dealers/Brokers)
George Harding (Animal Control)
Rick Smith (Municipal Dog Pounds)
Rene Ward (Animal Shelters)
Dr. John Reinhold (Veterinarians)

ACFA advisory board members are selected to serve a two-year term. The advisory committee is established by statute to help the director establish rules under sections 273.350 and 273.352 and to provide ongoing review of the administration of sections 273.350 to 273.357. Advisory committee members, appointed by the director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture, receive no compensation or reimbursement for expenses incurred in performing their duties.

USDA and MDA Sharing Information

Inspection reports, broker records, and licensee files are routinely shared between the ACFA office and USDA as a cooperative effort in carrying out requirements of the Animal Welfare Act and the Animal Care Facilities Act.

Inspection reports of designated license classifications are shared at monthly intervals. In addition, broker and pet store records are used to determine whether kennels requiring a state license fall under federal jurisdiction. Finally, licensee files are shared with federal compliance personnel to pursue litigation against facilities that show a chronic record of non-compliance.

If you live in Missouri, harbor more than three intact female dogs or cats, and sell to a broker, dealer, or pet store, you are required to license with the USDA and MDA Animal Care Programs.

Frequently Asked Question:

We are always open to questions. Through the use of this column, we hope to answer some questions that are commonly asked of our staff.

What kind of space is required for dogs by ACFA regulations?

Each dog housed in a primary enclosure must be provided a minimum amount of floor space, calculated in square footage as follows:

$$\frac{[\text{Length of the dog in inches (from the tip of the nose to the base of tail)} + 6]^2}{144}$$

Dogs housed individually must be provided with twice the minimum floor space or be provided the opportunity for regular exercise. Dogs more than 12 weeks old housed in groups must be provided with a minimum floor space that meets the sum of minimum space calculations for all dogs that are housed within the cage, pen, or run.

Females nursing puppies must be provided with additional floor space in accordance with generally accepted husbandry practices as determined by the attending veterinarian.

The interior height of a primary enclosure must be at least six inches higher than the head of the tallest dog in the enclosure when it is in a normal standing position.

Please note that these are minimum requirements. While we enforce minimum requirements, we encourage that licensed facilities exceed these requirements.

Census of ACFA Facilities

(As of March 4, 2003)

Commercial Breeders	1,308
Commercial Kennels	37
Boarding Kennels	123
Dealer/Broker	100
Pet Shops	71
Contract Kennels	17
Exhibitors	5
Hobby/Show Licensed	24
Hobby/Show Registered	246
Animal Shelters	73
Municipal Dog Pounds	212
Pet Sitters	9
Intermediate Handlers	7
Rescues	70
Total	2,302

Contact Us:

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Renewals Due in January

ACFA license and registration renewals were due January 31, 2003.

Operation of an animal shelter, pound or dog pound, boarding kennel, commercial kennel, contract kennel, pet shop, or exhibition facility, or activity as a commercial breeder or dealer without a valid license shall constitute a class A misdemeanor.

State Budget Woes

It appears that state spending will continue to remain tight this year.

While our program is mostly fee-funded, a significant portion of our funding comes from general revenue.

At this time our office has restricted travel reimbursement and discontinued cellular phone use to cut down on costs.

Additional adjustments will be made as necessary.

Canine Care Workshops

The United States Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Agriculture, and University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine will be conducting continuing education workshops for the second consecutive year.

There will be three opportunities to attend educational workshops designed to help pet breeders enhance the health and well being of their dogs. Timely information on neonatal care of puppies and preventative medicine will also be presented. There will also be a presentation on kennel design(s), and a State of Missouri ACFA update.

Canine Care Workshops will take place at the following locations and dates:

Kansas City	May 10
Joplin	May 17
Cape Girardeau	June 17

There is a \$25.00 fee to attend, which includes lunch if you register by April 25, 2003. Please contact our office for a pamphlet and registration form.

Why a License May be Held

Licensees and registrants that meet one of the following criteria may have their licenses held:

1. Substandard inspection
2. No program of veterinary care
3. No current inspection
4. Pending litigation

The ACFA law requires any animal shelter, pound or dog pound, boarding kennel, commercial kennel, contract kennel, pet shop, exhibition facility, dealer, or commercial breeder to be licensed and inspected annually. If you have not received your current license, you may receive clarification by calling us at 573-751-3076.

Compliance Activity

We continue to designate certain cases as high priority and hope to follow them through to resolution.

A substandard, unlicensed breeder in Callaway County opted to go out of business when cited for inadequate shelter by local officials and presented with licensing requirements of the ACFA.

A commercial breeder in Camden County mentioned in the last quarterly report continues to reduce the number of dogs on site. We continue to monitor this situation.

A two-year old case of an unlicensed facility in Lincoln County was continued until April 24th. An administrative hearing has already been held.

We cooperated with the Humane Society of Missouri on investigating allegations made against an animal sanctuary in Boone County. The complaint was motivated by personal conflict rather than by a sincere interest in animal welfare.

We cooperated with the Missouri Pet Breeders Association in removing dogs from an unlicensed facility in Douglas County.

We have been cooperating with the City of Springfield on at least three cases, including an unlicensed breeder, an unlicensed shelter, and possible unlicensed pet stores. The unlicensed Pit Bull breeder was incarcerated during a site visit. The unlicensed shelter was put out of business last year and is now avoiding state and local agencies. The unlicensed pet stores are conducting adoptions on intermittent Saturdays. We will continue to monitor these situations, but, as you can see, certain facts slow our process.